



# MEAP

## Coordinator Update

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Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability – Michigan Educational Assessment Program – Vol. 2, No.10 – April 5, 2005

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### **Memorandums and a Video Conference Regarding Fall 2005 Pre-ID process for Grades 3-9**

This week, memorandums with specific information about dates and options for the fall Pre-ID process are going out to all LEA and ISD Superintendents, Public School Academy Directors and Authorizers. The memos encourage recipients to share the information with district/school staff that are knowledgeable of the process. Included with the memos is a response form that districts should use to select their choice of options for the Pre-ID process.

For many districts and schools, the OEAA was able to predict students' school of attendance for next year using information from the Single Record Student Database (SRSD). In cases where predictions were possible at all grade levels for most students, districts and schools may request the OEAA to load Pre-ID lists based on these predictions. Generic versions of the memorandums are posted on the MEAP and MI-Access web pages.

Live Video Conference – April 13, 2005 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

A live video conference on “**Preparing for the Fall 2005 MEAP and MI-Access Student Pre-Identification Process**” will be held in cooperation with Wayne RESA, the TCOM Consortium, MIstreamnet and the Sustained Learning Regions. This video conference will provide a detailed explanation of the process that will be used to Pre-ID students for the fall 2005 MEAP and MI-Access assessments.

Watch the OEAA web page ([www.mi.gov/oeaa](http://www.mi.gov/oeaa)) for a listing of participating ISD host sites.

### **Training Dates Set for the MEAP Item Development Teams**

Many educators have contacted the MEAP Office to ask about the dates for this summer's Item Development Team (IDT) training sessions. The sessions will be held on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing. Dates for the initial training sessions are:

- English Language Arts – June 23-25
- Mathematics – June 28-30
- Science – June 13-15
- Social Studies – June 28-30

The second three-day session will also be at Michigan State University. Dates for these sessions are:

- English Language Arts – August 18-20
- Mathematics – August 15-17
- Science – August 11-13
- Social Studies – August 8-10

Between these face-to-face sessions, IDT members will work on new items for each content area developed at and after these meetings. All told, participants on each subject area IDT should plan to devote about 12 days (including the six meeting days) to this effort.

Participants will learn first-hand how to develop high quality assessment items, a skill that should assist educators as they develop assessments at the classroom and school levels. In return, we are offering modest compensation for the work done as part of the IDT, plus reimbursement for mileage, hotel expenses, and meals. Districts will benefit as IDT members develop additional skills in item development and a better understanding of the principles of assessment. Team members will also receive the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped us create the next generation of MEAP assessments.

A cover letter with background information, IDT Role Description, and Application Form for each content area is available on the MEAP web page under Information for Educators at [www.michigan.gov/meap](http://www.michigan.gov/meap).

Interested educators are asked to complete the application forms and develop three sample assessment items for submission to the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability by Friday, April 29, 2005.

Most assessment coordinators know your teachers very well and could make a major contribution to quality tests by nominating item writers to OEAA/MEAP. Please nominate one (or more) teacher(s) by sending their email addresses to [MEAP@michigan.gov](mailto:MEAP@michigan.gov). We will send them the application and a personal invitation to apply. We would like each assessment coordinator to nominate one or two people. Thank you for your

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Brown, Coordinator, MEAP Test Development, at [BrownBill@michigan.gov](mailto:BrownBill@michigan.gov).

## **Candidates Sought for MEAP Bias/Sensitivity and Content Advisory Committees**

An important aspect of developing assessment items for the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) is reviewing those items for quality. One part of the quality review is to assure that each item written for the MEAP is free from bias and sensitive issues that may cause students distress. It is our intent to employ Michigan educators and other Michigan residents in the bias and sensitivity reviews.

Another aspect of the quality review is to assure that each item written for the MEAP assessments is accurate, developmentally appropriate, and adequately measures the intended content.

Toward these ends, MEAP will soon release application forms for membership on the Bias/Sensitivity Review Committees (BSC) and the Content Advisory Committees (CAC).

Participants will assist the Michigan Department of Education to assure that the MEAP assessments are most appropriate for Michigan's children and youth. In return, we are offering a modest amount of compensation plus reimbursement of mileage, hotel expenses, and meals.

While these committees are providing a service to Michigan's educational assessment activities, they will be receiving professional development that will help them to better prepare to take part in educating the children of our state.

A cover letter with background information, Role Descriptions, and Application Form for each committee will be available soon on the MEAP web page under Information for Educators at [www.michigan.gov/meap](http://www.michigan.gov/meap). We urge you to complete the application forms as soon as they become available.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Brown, Coordinator, MEAP Test Development, at [BrownBill@michigan.gov](mailto:BrownBill@michigan.gov).

## **OEAA News**

### New MEAP Assessment Contractors

New MEAP assessment contracts have been awarded to Pearson Educational Measurement (PEM) of Iowa City for test administration and scoring, and Harcourt Educational Measurement of San Antonio for test item development. These new contractors will begin work for the fall tests. The current MEAP contractor, Measurement Incorporated, is working closely with both PEM and Harcourt to help ensure a smooth transition.

It is important that District Assessment Coordinators are aware of the new contractors because correspondence from one or both of these companies will be forthcoming regarding fall testing.

### OEAA Secure Web Site – New Name, Familiar Face

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) encompass the MEAP, MI-Access and English Learner Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) programs. To that end, enhancements to the OEAA secure web site (formerly known as the MEAP secure web site) now include a process for the pre-identification of students for both the MEAP and MI-Access assessments. At this time, you can still access the site at the same URL ([www.mi.gov/meap-secure](http://www.mi.gov/meap-secure)) address. When the change is made to a new URL, an announcement will be made and browser requests for the old site will be automatically forwarded to the new location for a period of time.

## **MEAP Contact Information**

MEAP email address: [meap@mi.gov](mailto:meap@mi.gov)

MEAP web site: [www.mi.gov/meap](http://www.mi.gov/meap)

MEAP Office local phone number: 517-373-8393

MEAP Office toll-free phone number: 877-560-8378

MEAP Office fax number: 517-335-1186

OEAA web site: [www.mi.gov/oeaa](http://www.mi.gov/oeaa)

OEAA secure web site: [www.mi.gov/meap-secure](http://www.mi.gov/meap-secure)